

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NAHA 00176 171145 Z

45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 SCS-03 SCA-01

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ACDA-19 L-03 H-02 RSR-01

/090 W

----- 089340

P 170853 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1085

INFO AMEMB TOKYO JAPAN

USFJ FUCHU JAPAN

COMNAV FOR JAPAN

OAC FORT BUCKNER OKINAWA

CDR 3 MARDIV OKINAWA

CDR MARCORB CAMP BUTLER OKINAWA

SECDEF, WASH DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAHA 176

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI JA

SUBJ: KIN VILLAGE TANK ACCIDENT: PUBLIC REACTION

REF: NAHA 157 NOTAL

1. PUBLIC FUROR OVER APRIL 12 ACCIDENT IN WHICH JAPANESE
WOMAN COLLECTING EXPENDED CARTRIDGES KILLED BY USMC TANK
DURING TRAINING EXERCISE AT KIN BLUE BEACH NOW SUBSIDING.

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HOWEVER, PRESS CONTINUING FIRST PAGE COVERAGE OF ACCIDENT AND
OF JOINT US- JAPANESE INVESTIGATION WITH FOCUS ON FACT THAT
ACCIDENT OCCURRED ON DAY WHEN VILLAGERS EXPLICITLY PERMITTED
TO ENTER TRAINING AREA. (NOTE: ACTUALLY PERMISSION GRANTED
TO ENTER TO COLLECT WOOD AND GRASS AND CONGEN UNDERSTANDS
SUCH COLLECTION NORMALLY TAKES PLACE IN AREA AT SOME DISTANCE
FROM ACCIDENT SITE.) INTERESTINGLY AFTER FIRST DAY NHK HAS
CARRIED STORY ONLY ON LOCAL NEWS PORTION OF TV NEWS.

2. SPECIAL SESSION PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLY REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED
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APRIL 20 TH TO CONSIDER PROTEST RESOLUTION TO U. S. AND GOJ.
STORY DATED TOKYO REPORTS DFAB PLANS TO REQUEST USF TO
REFRAIN FROM TRAINING ACTIVITIES ON DAYS ENTRY PERMISSION
GRANTED.

3. SEVEN PROTEST GROUPS VISITED CONGEN APRIL 13 & 15 BUT
ONLY ONE APPEARED APRIL 16. COMMON THEME OF PROTEST WAS THAT
BASE REMOVAL ONLY WAY TO PRECLUDE ACCIDENTS, THAT USG SHOULD
PAY FULL COMPENSATION TO VICTIM' S FAMILY, AND THAT GOJ SHOULD
EXERCISE CRIMINAL JURISDICTION OVER INCIDENT. PREFECTURAL
POLICE INVESTIGATORS HAVE ALREADY INDICATED PUBLICLY THAT USG
APPEARS TO HAVE PRIMARY JURISDICTION SINCE ACCIDENT OCCURRED

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DURING PERFORMANCE OF OFFICIAL DUTY.

4. COMMENT: REFORMIST PRESSURE PARTIES AND GROUPS WILL TRY TO
KEEP ISSUE ALIVE BUT IT APPEARS TO BE LOSING STEAM. THIS
PROBABLY DUE IN PART TO CONSERVATIVE AND GENERALLY PRO- AMERICAN
BIAS OF KIN VILLAGERS AND PERHAPS TO LACK OF APPRECIABLE FEED-
BACK FROM TOKYO. INCIDENT WILL OF COURSE ADD TO CATALOG OF
OKINAWAN GRIEVANCES AND FURTHER SENSITIZE POPULACE TO ANTI- BASE
AGITATION.

PETREE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: MILI, JA
To: , WASH DC
AMEMB TOKYO
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